

Waiheke Island

Steiner School

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Newsletter 4, 24 Here-turi-kōkā (August) 2018

Kia ora e te whānau,

We are now halfway through Term 3 and signs of spring have sprung. Thank you once again to everyone who helped at the working bee prior to the start of term; also to the wonderful people who clean the classrooms every weekend - your efforts are always noticed and much appreciated.

It was an honour and a privilege having John Lawry with us for the first week of term running his Outdoor Classroom - Experiential Learning programme. The children rose magnificently to the challenge of working with sharp knives and red-hot metal. John's way with the children was gentle, insightful and inspiring. Thank you to Olivia for taking the initiative to get this project off the ground, and we look forward to seeing Baraka's short film.

In 2019, the centenary of Steiner/Waldorf education, we will have 3 full classes - Class 1-2, Class 3-4, and Class 5-6. To accommodate the growing numbers, renovations will be done to maximise the size of the classrooms. This will entail removing certain walls and items surplus to classroom requirements such as bathtubs.

Our school is blessed with energetic parents full of ideas. If you would like to discuss some of your thoughts or suggestions with me, you may like to pop into the office on a Friday. I will set aside (as much as humanly possible) the first hour each Friday as a drop-in session. If you would like to make an appointment at a specified time, please let me know in person or via email.

Soon the maypole will go up and we will begin practising for the Spring Festival on Friday 21 September. Hope to see you all there.

Sarah



Pānui / Notices

'Open Home' Play

Colin Beardon's new play 'Open Home' will be performed at the Ostend Memorial Hall. By organising a group of 6 or more people to each of the first 3 sessions (August 31 – September 2), we will receive half the ticket price back as a fundraiser. Organise a group of friends and come and enjoy the show. Tickets are \$15 cash at the door.

WIRSET AGM

Save the date – Saturday October 27. The Waiheke Island Rudolph Steiner Education Trust will be having their annual general meeting in Fossil Bay, time to be confirmed. Further details to come.

Gardening- Seeds & Wood donations

With the coming of Spring the plan is to get growing some beautiful vegetables and flowers of our own. If you have any seeds, equipment or wood (for boxes) please get in touch with Antonia. Green thumb expertise also welcomed!

Sunhats

Welcome back sun! Sunhats are a good idea this time of year, as we are now experiencing some beautiful sunshine. In Term 4 wearing a sunhat whilst outside will be compulsory.

Water Bottles

Please ensure your child is bringing a water bottle to school each day, especially on Fridays when we are usually out and about exploring.

Sickness / Absences

If your child is sick with diarrhoea or vomiting please keep them home for a minimum of 24 hours. Any absences should also be texted through to the school phone – 021 174 2445.

Spare Clothes

To ensure maximum fun at lunch time and morning tea, please have your child/children equipped with a change of clothes in their bags every day! Gumboots are also helpful however now that spring is on its way they are not as essential.

Something to Add?

If you have a community notice you would like added please get in touch! Email Antonia@waiheke.school.nz with your information.

Meet Scully! The newest member of Fossil Bay. Scully will be staying with us for 4 weeks while Zephyr and Scout are away. Ask an adult before saying hello, there is a towel for him to sit on your lap near his cage. Please be mindful it's a big new world for him here!



A few notes about food at school:

Thanks to Tessa for organising organic snacks for shared morning tea. Once current supplies have run out, we will trial having shared food as more of an occasional event (such as lunch cooked in the pizza oven) rather than most days.

A few children are running out of food and report being hungry at lunch time. Please have a talk at home about how much food they are eating at school, and perhaps make a plan about how much to eat at morning tea and how much to keep in reserve for lunch.

Please maintain your ongoing efforts with healthy food and minimal packaging. There can be a lot of peer pressure around what sort of food is perceived as a treat or more desirable, so a collective, community approach to this can make things easier for all children.

There will be a rash of spring birthdays coming up over the coming weeks. Bearing this in mind, teachers would appreciate your help in keeping sugar consumption relatively low.

Quite a few lunch boxes and containers have been left at school. Come and have a look by the lost property box (bottom of the stairs).

A BIG THANK YOU too all the parents and volunteers who helped with the working bee. The children are enjoying the wonderful fruits of your labour! Thank you for all the work done behind the scenes, we so appreciate it!

Fridays

Class 1,2 & 3 have been a lovely rhythm of physical exercise and exploration at Oneroa beach, walking through the village, and spending time at the Library diving into the world of books, chess and puzzles. The grassy knoll and flat concrete courtyard have become favourite play spaces on these Fridays. From Week 5 onwards Classes 1 - 3 will be commencing Friday mornings with a one hour handwork and craft session, before flowing on to the next activity.

Class 4 & 5 have been showing a particular in constructing fires lately. Discussions about ways we can safely use fire are underway, such as cooking food, warmth and blacksmithing. Ideas for games and activities for our play areas are also underway. Watch this space!

Class 4 & 5

We start each day with music, and our recorder playing skills are developing nicely; we hope to play the musical accompaniment for the younger children's maypole dances at the Spring Festival, and studying animals provides lots of fun songs to sing.

Our 'Human and Animal' main lesson has woven together music, art, poetry, science and research skills. Each child has chosen 3 species (1 native, 1 introduced, 1 exotic) and found out about their life cycles and habitats. After sharing our research findings, we will wrap things up with a lesson at the zoo on animal adaptations. We also have the opportunity to see the rare books and heritage collections at Auckland Library which will add to our knowledge and understanding gained from our 'Art and History of Writing' main lesson.

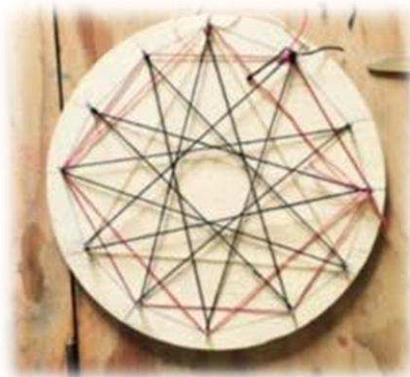
Following that, we move on to a study of botany which will provide plenty of opportunities for field trips and learning from local experts.



Class 2 & 3

Our first Main Lesson of this term was Division of a Circle. The children have had plenty of practice drawing freehand circles, as well as discovering ways of making circles using various branches, our bodies - anything that swings around an axis evenly. This Main Lesson has helped with times tables, geometry and was a nice lead in to our current Main Lesson - Measurement of Time. Today we drew a circle and divided it into 60; Yes, a clock-face! We have been experimenting with telling time using a sun-dial, our shadows, the seasons, a water-clock and so on. The children have begun practising for the King of Ireland's Son play, which we look forward to performing for you all at some point. The beauty of Spring is informing our painting, singing, book-work and encouraging us outdoors more.

The working bee at the end of the holidays just gone saw our class garden take more form - structured sides, a horseshoe shape. The seedlings we planted in the first week have mostly been eaten - possibly by a pukeko, so we will be looking into solutions for this! Luckily we didn't plant them all, and there are still seedlings being raised in our classroom. The garden really needs a layer of topsoil and mulch, and some thick bamboo to build up the sides. Class one are planning some garden boxes along the drive, so this will be a great project, and make a trailer load of topsoil put to good use. Gifts of extra seedlings, compost, thick bamboo cuts, sea grass, coffee grinds, bromeliads/ flowers for our driftwood garden; all are gratefully accepted.



Class 1

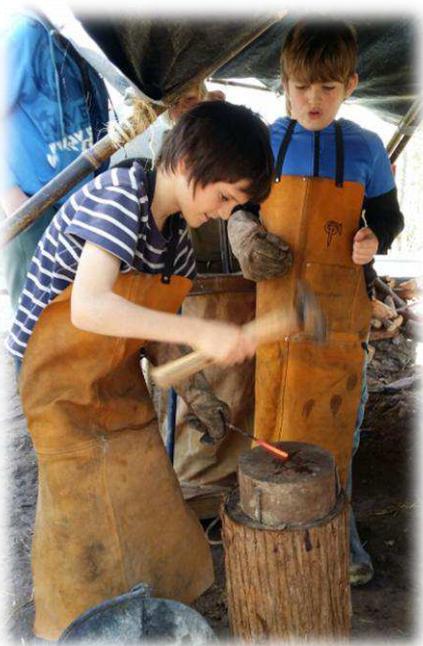
We have had a busy start to Term 3 with our maths main lesson which stretched over four weeks! In that time we strengthened our mathematical knowledge by exploring numbers to 100, odd and even numbers, numeral formation and an introduction to the four operations. Phew! We have also been practising our handwork skills by knitting a ball and now we are working on a head piece too. A **BIG** shout out to **Karianne** who has been a huge help with these crafts - we are so grateful!

Just this week we have been exploring our school and home surroundings as part of our main lesson focus. We ventured out amongst Fossil Bay identifying birds, trees, flowers and a glimpse at different types of clouds. Our focus moved into discussing the environment we live in and how we can help our planet thrive. This resulted in the unanimous decision to pick up rubbish. We thought Owhanake would be the ideal place to start, however we found much more rubbish on our walk between school and the beach than at the shoreside itself! Well done Class 1 for being tidy Kiwis and helping keep New Zealand beautiful!



Outdoor Classroom - Experiential Learning

This Term our school was so blessed to have the presence of John Lawry and his Outdoor Classroom for the whole first week of school. What a happy and industrious scene we had here. The early morning smoke from the fire, the clanging of metal being forged, busy whittling hands, and, most of all, the joy and delight of the children to be working with these materials in such a setting. We hope to have John back again, perhaps next year for a repeat visit. It was great timing with the wonderful new wooden climbing structure - children could perch like birds and watch over the activity. Thanks to Kylie, Gavin and Hilly for erecting this! By the end of the week students in Class 2 and 3 had accomplished a lot of whittling, sawing and sanding which ended out as fun games, cutlery and an array of many other wooden creations.



Class 1 was frequently joined by the older kindergarten children, who will be sharing a classroom together next year! The children engaged in whittling and Class 1 also went on to have a go at some carving and sanding of their own creations also.

During this time Class 4-5 learnt the art of persistence and perseverance. Making fires from scratch wasn't easy, but the children became faster and more skilled day by day. The children were real blacksmiths, going with hammers and tongs to strike while the iron was hot. The work took courage, coordination and determination. Everyone took home something to be proud of, even if it didn't turn out quite as planned. The blacksmithing inspired some evocative poetry and got the class back into reading Charles Dickens "Great Expectations". Well done everyone!

Sarah, Olivia and Antonia